

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0973

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 02798

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y F O R P A R A T W O

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: SHUM, PGOV, PINT, EI, UK

SUBJECT: GOI VIEWS ON GALLAGHER HUNGER STRIKE AND ON
ADMINISTRATION OF LAW IN NORTHERN IRELAND

REF: A) BELFAST 171, B) DUBLIN 02775

1. IN CONVERSATION AUGUST 30 WITH POLOFF, MFA COUNSELOR
HUGH SWIFT (ANGLO-IRISH AFFAIRS) VOLUNTEERED COMMENT IN
CONFIDENCE THAT GOI WOULD MAKE NO REPRESENTATIONS IN
GALLAGHER CASE. IRISH OFFICIALS FAMILIAR WITH CASE ARE
CERTAIN THAT GALLAGHER WAS DEEPLY INVOLVED IN PROVISIONAL
IRA ACTIVITIES AND HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT HIS GUILT IN
THE CASE FOR WHICH HE WAS CONVICTED. HE ADDED THAT PRO-
VISIONALS ARE ACTIVE IN CAMPAIGN FOR GALLAGHER RETRIAL.

2. SWIFT WENT ON TO SAY THAT GOI REGARDS JUDGES IN
NORTHERN IRELAND AS GENERALLY IMPARTIAL AND FAIR, "THOUGH
MISTAKES ARE OCCASIONALLY MADE." THE GOI CONTINUES TO
BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE MYRIAD REPORTS OF ABUSES OF HUMAN
RIGHTS AT CASTLEREAGH INTERROGATION CENTER, AND ABOUT
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SITUATION AT LONG KESH. IT HAS NO PLANS TO BROACH SUB-
JECTS TO BRITISH GOVERNMENT NOW, WITH UK GENERAL ELECTION
APPARENTLY AT HAND, BUT WILL LIKELY DO SO AFTER ELECTION.
SWIFT SAID GOI FEELS BRITISH GOVERNMENT COULD PUT CAMPAIGN
FOR REINSTITUTION OF POLITICAL STATUS FOR CERTAIN PRI-
SONERS ON DEFENSIVE BY OFFERING TO CONCEDE TO SOME
DEMANDS WITHOUT COMPROMISING ON MAJOR POINTS OF PRINCIPLE.

THUS, THE BRITISH MIGHT PROPOSE THAT NON-PRISON CLOTHING
COULD BE WORN, THAT EXERCISE WOULD BE ASSURED AND NO
PUNITIVE DIET WOULD BE SERVED, WHILE MAINTAINING REFUSAL
OF POLITICAL STATUS. SHANNON

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